

**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. Claims 42-68 currently are pending, and have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over USP 6,515,684, hereinafter Knodt. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present application claims the priority of JP 2000-028275, which was filed in Japan on February 4, 2000. A certified copy of the priority application was filed in this application on January 25, 2001. A verified translation of JP 2000-028275 will be filed in the near future.

The cited reference, Knodt, was filed in the US Patent & Trademark Office on February 10, 2000. Therefore, once the claim for priority in the present application is perfected, Knodt will not be prior art to the present application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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